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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:
Akiyo YAMADA et al.

Appl. No.: Unassigned

Confirmation No.

Filed: January 18, 2002

For: ENVIRONMENTAL STRESS
TOLERANT GENE

Art Unit: Unassigned

Examiner: Unassigned

Atty. Docket No.: 31671-176817

Customer No.



26694

PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Preliminary Amendment

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to calculation of the fees, please amend the claims attached to the specification as follows:

3. (amended) The method for screening according to claim 1, wherein the environmental stress is one or more of chemical substance stress, high temperature stress, low temperature stress, freezing stress, drought stress, ozone stress, ultraviolet stress, radiation stress, or osmotic pressure stress.

5. (amended) The method for screening according to claim 1, wherein the host cell is a coliform.

7. (amended) The method for screening according to claim 1, wherein an environmental condition where host cells cannot substantially grow is 350mM or more of salt concentration.

8. (amended) DNA encoding proteins having the activity of improving environmental stress tolerance wherein the DNA is obtained according to claim 1.